(b) D.G.C.I. & S. Calcutta compiles data on exports and imports of goods as per Indian Trade classification based on the recognised commodity description and coding system. Data on value of goods exported and imported separately by Public and Private sector Companies are not maintained.

Opening of Border Areas for Trade with China

2391. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Govednment's consideration to open more border areas for trade with China;

(b) if so, what are the conditions for such trade with China; and

(c) whether Government have identified some border areas of Arunachal Pradesh for the same purpose?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The border trade with China is governed by the provisions contained in the Memorandum on resumption of border trade signed with People's Republic of China on 13-12-91. The border trade includes exchange of commodities and over land trade carried in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations in force in either country. The mode of transaction will be in freely convertible currency acceptable to both sides or in barter terms.

(c) The issue of extension of border trade to other points on India China border is still under consideration

Growth in Indian Exports

2392. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the growth in Indian exports during 1992-93 in comparison to 1991-92;

(b) what has been the flow of foreign investment in the form of equity during the two years mentioned above; and

(c) what has been the effect of such investment on the balance of trade position?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Exports during April-December '92 in 1992-93 registered a growth of 23.1 percent in rupee term or 3.4 percent in dollar term over the corresponding period of 1991-92.

(b) Total amount of foreign direct investment involved in foreign collaboration approvals issued during the period 1991-92 and 1992-93 (upto January) was Rs. 13278.9 million and Rs. 28595.4 million respectively.

(c) There is no direct effect of foreign investment on balance of trade.

Opposition of Dunkel proposals by Farmers

2393. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers in the country have opposed accepting of Dunkel's proposals and signing of GATT Agreement, and organised a march from Amritsar to Delhi in the second week of February, 1993;

(b) if so, the details of their demand; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU/Ind-M.S. Tikait), U.P., the BKU (Lokhowal), Punjab and the Karnataka Farmers Association jointly organised a rally on 3rd March, 1993 to protest against the Dunkel proposals. This rally was attended by farmers and kisan leaders of various states. A resolution, demanding rejection of the Dunkel proposals was adopted at the rally.

(c) Analysis made by the Government shows that the Dunkel proposals on agriculture would create no problems for our agricultural policies in the short and medium terms, Government has sought changes, improvements and understandings to ensure that there are no problems in the long term also.

Surplus Staff in Export Inspection Agency

2394. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a substantial number of employees of the Export Inspection Agency would be rendered surplus in the department because of Government's decision to relax quality control and pre-shipment inspection of exporting commodities;

(b) if so, whether a detailed scheme has been prepared to absorb the effected employees elsewhere;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) Pursuant to the Government policy of making the exporters responsible for meeting the foreign buyers' quality requirements the work load of the offices of the Export Inspection Agencies (FIAs) may get reduced, resulting in surplus manpower. The EIAs are an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Commerce of and the EIA personnel are not Goverment employees.

Absorption of EIA surplus personnel in Government departments/other Government inspection agencies or PSUs and other agencies has been considered and has not been found feasible.

Fixation of import export norms

2395. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fixation of import export noms or more export production is under active consideration of the Director General of Foreign Trade;

(b) if so, the details of the export products identified;

(c) whether Government propose to get import orders of such products from foreign firms; and

(d) if so, what effect?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):

(a) and (b) Fixation of input-output norms is a continuous process. As on date, 1908 noms have been standardized and published in the Official Gazete from time to time.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, standardized noms help individual exporters to import duty free inputs and export their products expeditiously.